

About the Loon Preservation Committee and The Loon Center

The Loon Preservation Committee was created in 1975 in response to dramatic declines in the abundance of loons in New Hampshire. LPC's mission is to preserve loons and their habitats throughout New Hampshire, to monitor the health and productivity of loon populations as sentinels of environmental quality, and to promote a greater understanding of loons and the natural world.

The Loon Center is LPC's headquarters and visitor center and includes exhibits, videos, and The Loon's Feather Gift Shop.

Loon Center Hours

Open 9-5 Daily July 1 – Columbus Day
Monday – Saturday most other times
Winter Hours (late Oct-Apr) Thursday – Saturday
Trails open daily dawn – dusk

The Loon Preservation Committee and New Hampshire Audubon are statewide membership organizations. New Hampshire Audubon is independent of the National Audubon Society. For more information about The Loon Preservation Committee or New Hampshire Audubon, contact:



Loon Preservation Committee
P.O. Box 604, Moultonborough, NH 03254
603-476-LOON (5666) / www.loon.org



New Hampshire Audubon
3 Silk Farm Road, Concord, NH 03301
603-224-9909 / www.nh Audubon.org

If you do not want to keep this guide, please return it to the mailbox at the trailhead.

Printed on  recycled paper

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Map by *Mike Milligan*
Illustrations courtesy of *N.H. Fish and Game*

Trail Guide

Frederick and Paula Anna Markus Wildlife Sanctuary Moultonborough, New Hampshire



Iain C. MacLeod, 1992

Loon Preservation Committee
in affiliation with
New Hampshire Audubon

About the Sanctuary

The 200-acre Frederick and Paula Anna Markus Wildlife Sanctuary on the north shore of Lake Winnepesaukee is an extraordinary slice of undeveloped woodlands and shoreline in the midst of a rapidly developing Lakes Region. Leased to New Hampshire Audubon through the generosity of the Markus Foundation, the Sanctuary is also home to The Loon Center, headquarters of the Loon Preservation Committee (LPC).

The natural beauty of upland forests, clear running streams, and over 5,000 feet of undeveloped shoreline makes this sanctuary an especially enjoyable visit. The Sanctuary is known for its abundance and diversity of ferns, berry-producing shrubs, wildflowers and birds – over 100 species of birds have been recorded within the Sanctuary limits. Those who come in early summer may be lucky enough to catch sight of one of the Sanctuary's nesting loons, in addition to a variety of waterfowl, woodland birds, deer, otter, beaver and other wildlife.

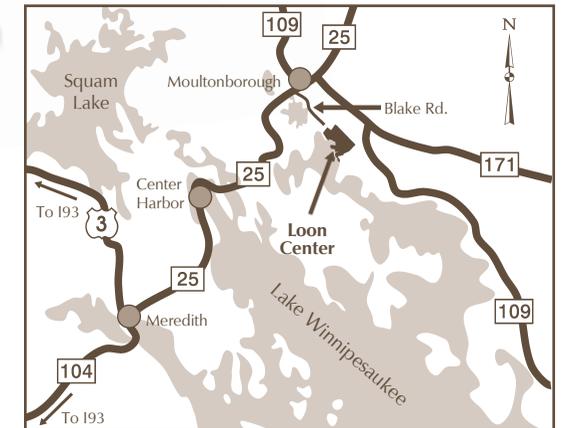
Trails at the Sanctuary are open year-round from dawn to dusk.



Visitor Information

Welcome to the Frederick and Paula Anna Markus Wildlife Sanctuary! To help preserve the Sanctuary as a sustainable educational resource, please follow these guidelines:

1. Only foot travel is permitted in the Sanctuary—dogs are allowed but no horses, bicycles, or motor vehicles, please!
2. Hunting, fishing, fires, camping and swimming are prohibited.
3. Please keep to the marked trails and do not collect or disturb plants or animals.
4. Please carry out all trash and litter.
5. Be prepared for country walking; sturdy shoes or boots are recommended.



Directions to the Markus Sanctuary

From Route 25 in Moultonborough, turn onto Blake Road at the Moultonborough Central School. Follow Blake Road for one mile until it ends and turn right at Lee's Mill Road. The Markus Wildlife Sanctuary and The Loon Center are on the left.

Trail Information

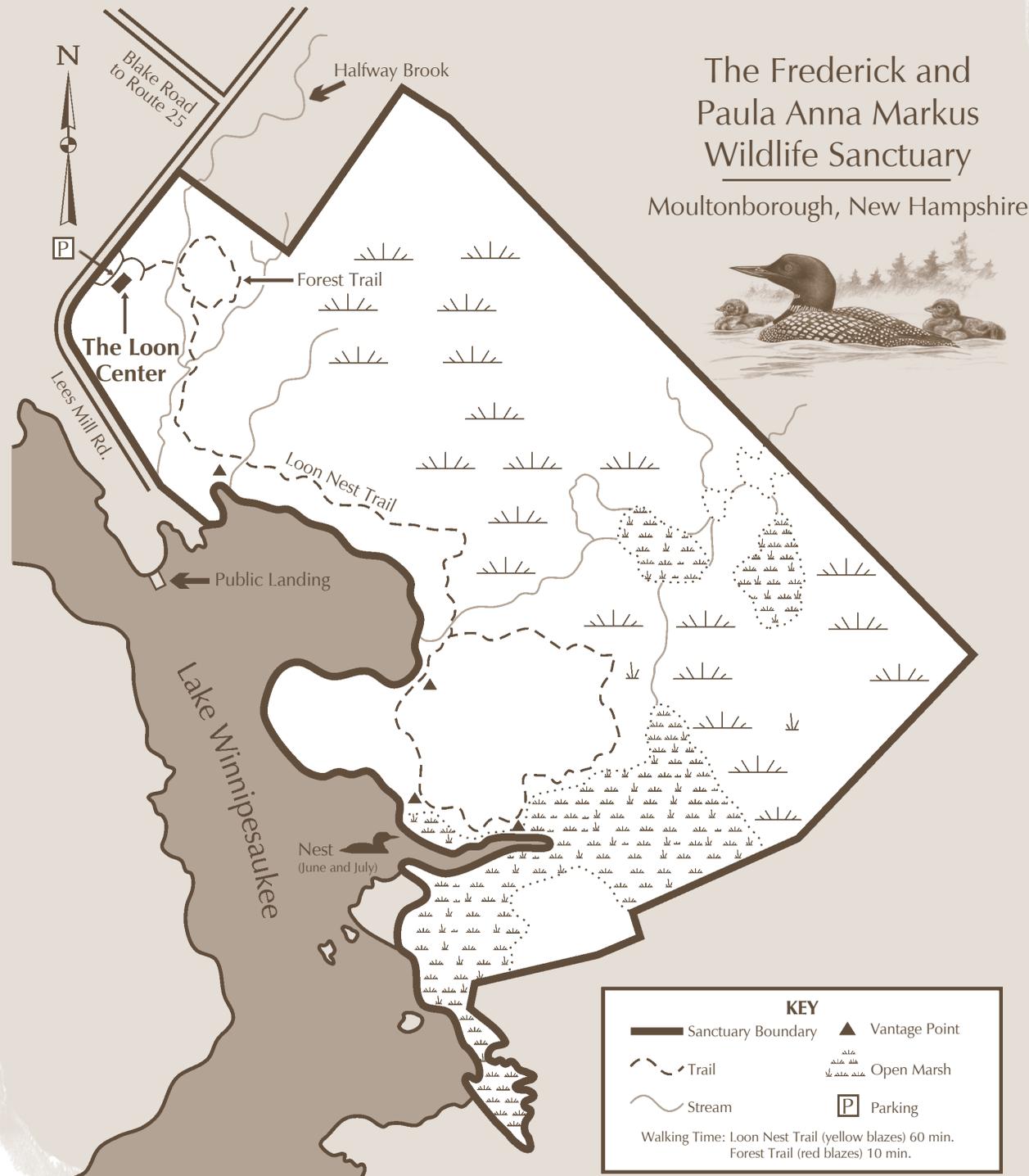
Both trails begin at the trailhead to the left of the lower parking lot (behind and to the left of The Loon Center). Sturdy footwear is recommended for those who want to walk the entire length of the Loon Nest Trail, but feel free to walk the Forest Trail or to the views and back for a shorter trip. Wildlife viewing opportunities abound on both trails.

Forest Trail

Red markers
Approximately 0.2 miles,
10 minutes round trip

The Forest Trail is a very short, flat, and easy loop through mixed woods. Turn left after the bridge over Halfway Brook and enjoy edge and interior forest habitats, the warblers and wildflowers of spring, the cool shade in summer, fall's colors, and woodland tracks in the winter's snow.

The trail intersects the Loon Nest Trail (yellow markers) at the second sitting bench; turn right to go back to The Loon Center or left to walk farther along the Loon Nest Trail.



Loon Nest Trail

Yellow markers
Approximately 1.7 miles,
1 hour round trip

Turn right after the bridge over Halfway Brook to experience the natural beauty of upland forests, marshes, clear streams, and close to a mile of pristine shoreline. Follow the brook through mixed woodlands past an old beaver dam and toward the lakeshore. The trail becomes more rocky and uneven after the short spur to the first viewpoint over the lake.

Follow the trail through a hemlock grove as it approaches the lakeshore at several points and passes several large glacial erratic boulders, left here as the glacial ice melted 10,000 to 12,000 years ago. Continue on the trail until you arrive at the terminal loop (look for the small sign across from a bench). Go straight at this juncture to come to a small rise with a bench that overlooks the bay, where a pair of loons traditionally nests in June on a nesting raft floated by the Loon Preservation Committee. Continue on the trail as it passes between more glacial erratic boulders and skirts the edge of a thriving cattail marsh before heading back into the interior woods. Eventually, the trail brings you back to the beginning of the terminal loop (look for the bench). Turn right to follow the trail back to The Loon Center.